

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 6, 17, 18 and 19 as indicated below.

This listing of claims below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a self-destructing document, comprising the steps of:

 creating an executable module which instructs a computer to automatically delete only the document to which the executable module is attached when the document, based upon a preselected expiration date, is expired;

 attaching the executable module to the document.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the executable module is an executable code.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the executable module is an executable program.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the executable module is a macro.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of executing the executable module when the document is opened.

6. (Currently Amended) A self-destructing e-mail messaging system, comprising:

 an executable module, the executable module configured to instruct a computer to automatically delete only a message to which the executable module is attached when the message, based upon a preselected expiration date, is expired;

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an e-mail messaging system, the e-mail messaging system configured to create the message and to transmit the message, the e-mail messaging system attaching the executable module to the message prior to transmission.

7. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein the executable module is an executable code.

8. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein the executable module is an executable program.

9. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein the executable module is a macro.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein the executable module is configured to overwrite the message with null characters.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein the executable module is configured to execute when the e-mail message to which it is attached is opened.

14. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 6, wherein the executable module is configured to begin execution when the message to which it is attached is opened, the executable module deleting the message during said execution if the message is expired.

15. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein the e-mail message is an e-mail message attachment.

17. (Currently Amended) A self-destructing e-mail messaging system, comprising:
an executable module, the executable module configured to instruct a computer to automatically delete only an e-mail message to which the executable module is attached when a predetermined condition is met, wherein said predetermined condition is selected from the group

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consisting of an attempt to print the message, an attempt to copy the message and an attempt to forward the message;

an e-mail messaging system, the e-mail messaging system configured to create the message and to transmit the message, the e-mail messaging system attaching the executable module to the message prior to transmission.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1~~ A method for creating a self-destructing document, comprising the steps of:

creating an executable module which instructs a computer to automatically delete the document to which the executable module is attached when the document, based upon a preselected expiration date, is expired;

attaching the executable module to the document,

wherein the document is an encrypted document, and wherein the executable module is configured to instruct the computer to decrypt the document if the document is not expired, and to delete the document if the document is expired.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 6~~ A self-destructing e-mail messaging system, comprising:

an executable module, the executable module configured to instruct a computer to automatically delete a message to which the executable module is attached when the message, based upon a preselected expiration date, is expired;

an e-mail messaging system, the e-mail messaging system configured to create the message and to transmit the message, the e-mail messaging system attaching the executable module to the message prior to transmission,

wherein the message is an encrypted message, and wherein the executable module is configured to instruct the computer to decrypt the message if the message is not expired, and to delete the message if the message is expired.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the executable module overwrites the document with null characters.

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45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the creating step includes selecting the preselected expiration date by selecting a number of days until expiration of the document.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the creating step includes selecting the preselected expiration date by selecting a month, date, and year.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the month, date, and year are selected by user input.

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